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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. KAKI et al.

Serial No.: 10/784,995

Filed: February 25, 2004

Title: SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE APPARATUS IN WHICH DIFFERENT ERASE COMMANDS ARE SEQUENTIALLY SENT TO A PLURALITY OF NONVOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORIES

Group: 2185

Examiner: ROJAS, Midys

Confirmation No.: 9779

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION and REMOVAL OF REJECTION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENT AS A REFERENCE

Mail Stop: Patent Appeals (Fee)

March 12, 2007

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated July 12, 2006, and the Advisory Action dated November 17, 2006, applicants respectfully requested reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claims 1-17, as being unpatentable over USP 5,724,544 to Nishi in view of USP 5,664,145 to Apperley, cited for the first time with the July 12, 2006 Final Office Action. With regard to this request, it is noted that it is being filed together with an Appellant's Brief on even date herewith and a Petition for Extension of Time.

As set forth in the Appellant's Brief, applicants continue to respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are patentable over the combination of Nishi and Apperley. However, in addition to the arguments presented in the Appellant's Brief, applicants